

WASHINGTON POST

DATE

24 May

PAGE

A-29

6 of 10 Hill Visitors To Peking Propose Prompt Recognition

United Press International

Six of 10 members of Congress who visited China in January called yesterday for the United States to cut formal ties with Taiwan and extend diplomatic recognition to Peking this year.

The Joint Economic Committee delegation also urged the administration to reserve the right, in case of threat from Peking, to take military action to help Taiwan, a nation of 16 million allied with the United States since 1954.

The majority said "the importance of normalization of relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China overrides any detriment that would arise from the end of diplomatic relations with Taiwan and the termination of the mutual defense treaty."

Citing "consolidation of the new leadership" in Peking and "apparent entry . . . into a pragmatic cycle," the majority, led by Assistant Senate Democratic Leader Alan Cranston (Calif.), warned of "substantial risk of injury to the national interest if the United States does not establish full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China as expeditiously as possible."

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) voiced the dissent of the four other members.

Lugar said normalization was desirable but he could not accept Peking's three requirements: that the United States end diplomatic relations with Taiwan, abrogate the 1954 mutual defense treaty and remove its forces from Taiwan.

"Clearly the American people do not favor such a course and I am doubtful the U.S. Senate will wish to proceed on this matter during 1978," Lugar said.

The report was expected to receive mixed reviews in Congress.

Rep. Edward Derwinski (R-Ill.), a Taiwan supporter, said he thought the issue of breaking ties with Taiwan "would be in doubt" in the House:

"It would depend on how hard the administration cracked the whip."

In the Senate, Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and other conservatives were expected to protest. "I would think there would be a great outcry," said a Goldwater aide.

But behind the scenes a number of prominent legislators, such as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), have been seeking ways to substantially improve relations with Peking.

medici
JEC

file